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street: Secretary of the Association, I

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If our friends who favor us with manuscripts for publication wish to have rejected articles returned they nust in all cases send stamps for that purpose

#### Foss in Fancuil Hall.

The Hon. EUGENE NOBLE FOSS and his company gave a performance in Faneuil Hall Thursday noon. Among the artists of the company were "a distinguished ex-member of the Boston Common Council"—can distinction flame higher than that? an ex-Representative in the Great and General Court, an ex-Mayor of Everett. In spite of the elethora of exes, the rarity of the publie appearances of Mr. Foss and the universal wrath against the high crimes and misdemeanors of Mr. Longe, "the hall was not filled," the Boston Transcript says, and though there were in the audience many marketmen, a hearty race, gifted of lungs, "the majority of listeners sat in silence." According to the Springfield Republican's account the body of the hall was fairly well! filled, but the gallery was not fully occupied at any stage of the meeting.

This faithlessness of the gallery looks nd who can explain the apathy of Boston and, we may add, of Massachuof the people of his State and the sacred cause of "progressive" government? For when the exes had worked off unending Anti-Henriad. Its culminating passage revealed the arthvillainies of Mr. LODGE:

the popular election of United States Senators of the referendum, the initiative or the recall. But policies which the people want their public servants to discuss and establish. Senator Longe is opposed to them. He is not representing the people of Massachusetts to day. He has ceased to lead. He has no part in the new order of things. He must retire. He is defeated aiready.

Without the referendum, the initiative and recall, and so on, what hope has freedom in her ancient home? No matter what that stolid audience may have thought, we are convinced, for our poor part, that Longe is as much of a hunker as GEORGE F. HOAR Was.

"When Mr. Foss had stopped speakgone out." since Lodge "is defeated aiready"? Still, is it impertinent to suggest to so persons to go to his meetings? No the deuce is anybody to know it?

# The Frailty of Adams.

With a good grace how many counties first stone at erring Adams? We observe that while Judge BLAIR is holding high court at West Union, and Linto the county town to confess the sin they will try it. of selling their votes, an investigation in a legislative contest in Cincinnati is disclosing moral depravity equally and old Scioto, neighbors of frail Adams; with the outside world, uninvaded by story told of them. The vernacular is hurns" abound. Life flows peacefully When there is so much sin there are few loafers. Touching are the accounts of United States? stealthy visits to money lenders for loans to pay fines and escape the indelible stain of a term in prison. A son admitted a bribe by his father; a widow accepted \$5 for the vote of her son, a first voter, and pleads poverty. In the secluded town of Walmsleyville all the voters of one school district have been indicted. From Green township "two more ministers" hastened to Judge BLAIR'S stool of penitence on Wednesday. Weary feet are stirring the dust on the roads to West Union. On many faces concern is written-the anguish of esetitution. For humor with a tragic

note this has a special appeal: " Late this afternoon four men, all of them past so years old, were seen (rudging down the road testing to West Union. A friend passed them on

eibes and that they had the money in their pockets to pay their fines. Up to 10 o'clock to light nothing had been seen of them in West Union, and it is feared that they may have got jost or are ' snowed a 'on the way between Manchester and West Union

The tact of Judge BLAIR in dealing with the penitents is significant. Upward of 1,100 indictments have been found. Suffragists are confessing by hundreds. It is estimated that 3,000 citizens are liable to indictment on evis oo dence presented by Special Prosecutor STEVENSON. This would be about half the voting strength of Adams county. There are not accommodations in the county jails for all who confess, and Judge BLAIR, tempering justice with mercy and throwing the mantle of charity over the besetting sin of Adams. is imposing fines with homilies that often leave the penitents in tears. Bribing and bribe taking is such an industry and so confirmed a habit in that part of trouble. Ohio that the court must gently reprove while it chastises. It hurts his Honor as much as the erring. Repentance and the pledge not to sin again are more important than vindicating the law. Adams seems unfeignedly sorry, and the leaven of reform is working. There is some consolation in that. Unhappily the case of Adams-will be a choice morsel for the muckrakers, who will make matters out much worse than they are, and goodness knows they are bad enough. The cities, ashamed or un-

### The Hudson Bay Route.

ashamed, will at least have a rest

Sir WILFRID LAURIER tells a delegation of western farmers that the Canadian Government intends to begin soon the construction of a railway to Hudson Bay. This was no more than a confirmation of official statements previously made. Presenting the annual railway budget to the House of Commons on February 1, 1910, the Hon. G. P. GRAHAM, Minister of Railways, said:

I wish to make it clear to the country and this House that this Government is committed this work [the railway to Hudson Bayl and ntends to proceed with it with all possible speed. After a full study of the matter, so far as it was possible, the Government decided and the country will concur in the advisability of making this a

Unquestionably a railway to the bay especially strange and even ominous; and a steamship connection at Churchill or Nelson would offer the shortest route from the wheat fields of the west to setts in the presence of Lodge's betrayal Liverpool, and this holds in the case of a considerable area of United States to Argentina or Chile, which would be of wheat flour, and Australia \$434.837, an territory as it does with Canada's West. It is estimated that wheat can be carsome of their indignation and "the ried by the Hudson Bay route at least human icicle" had been duly execrated, five cents a bushel cheaper than by any variety. Even after the imaginary lines grown in the islands, but the coffee im-Mr. Foss spouted more cantos of his other route. In the matter of cost of transportation of wheat, cattle or other will find more comfort, we fancy, and products of the region, much must depend upon the possibility of westward bound cargoes. If it should prove to be only a "one way" line the advantages of tages of the route are even greater. At shorter distance would be lost through a time when Manchester has built a these are the issues of the day. These are the the necessity for high charges on east- costly ship canal and Paris is endeavor- and rods and rails, in iron sheets and France and two-thirds that of Germany ward bound freight. It is assumed that ing to become a seaport so as to do plates, wire and wire cables, builders' during the time of its operation, limited away with transshipments, the suggesnecessarily to the summer months, the tion is offered that cargoes be shifted line would compete successfully with the to and from trains at three points at traffic by way of Montreal or New York. least, and that they be entrusted for the Canada's decision has been reached after long and careful study of possible and and Brazilian roads. With every counprobable cargoes in both directions.

matter of considerable importance on ers want to do away, as far as possible, this side of the line as well as on the with the finest and cheapest highway Leather and shoes are obtained largely other side. Until the last few years of commerce, the ocean. schemes for this far north route have ing." the Transcript reporter spitefully encountered derision and ridicule. It was declared that the railway would ent at the opening of the meeting had be snowed up for ten months of the Why should they stay, year and iced up for the other two, that the harbors on the shore of the bay were entirely impossible for several admirable an organizer and accelerator reasons, and that the Hudson Straits as Mr Foss that it would look a little were an ice gorge 450 miles in length, better if he would hire a few hundred liable to closure at any time and for indefinite periods. It is now fairly dedoubt the people have risen, but how termined that for several months of the year the route premises serious competition with lines to Europe by way of Montreal or New York. The railway can be kent open through the winter quite as easily as railways to the south of it, grain in Ohio, rural or urban, can cast the can be held in elevators until the opening of the season and then despatched by fleets held to await that opening. At least the Canadians have decided, after coln voters and first voters and voters full investigation and consideration, that of all degrees and callings are flocking the experiment is worth a trial and that

After all, the fate of this route may depend upon an entirely different influence. Those who watch world condishocking. And is Adams alone among tions from altitudes higher than fence the rural counties in exchanging votes rails and village groceries are generally for money? What of Highland, Pike, agreed that for our own benefit and protection wheat must go on the free list and Pickaway, Meigs, and Gallia? All before many years. If the crop of 1911 his "Harvard Lectures on Greek Subare communities composed of yeomen should, as it may, drop to the level of jects," fresher in the contemporary memof the soil uncontaminated by contact the crop of so recent a year as 1905 there would be no wheat for export, and imthe "seum of Europe." Such is the portation would be the elternative of a limit placed on the American appetite England; and Professor BUTCHER had worn almost wholly English. "Sweet Au- for wheat bread. The domestic requirement for the current year appears to Mosthenes in Congress, we believe, but on, except about election time, when have materially exceeded 600,000,000 the discussion is not of railroad rates bushels, and unfavorable conditions but of the ruling rate for votes, openly, might easily bring the yield to or below unblushingly, and with an eye to the that point. If American wheat raisers main chance. The village of Tranquil- are made to see, as they might be, that the is as keen about its opportunity and tariff on wheat is an injury rather than the quoted price as the factory town of a benefit to them, and if wheat is trans-Manchester, where rolls the turbid Ohio. ferred to the free list, will the cereal go to Europe by way of Hudson Bay or come accusers. The testimony is that min- southward for milling in this country, isters have sold their votes as well as for transportation over American railfarmers and farm hands and village ways and for shipment from ports of the

# Municipal Economy.

Commissioner THOMPSON'S letter to Mayor GAYNOR calling attention to the savings which he has been able to make in the Department of Water Supply, Gas and Electricity is encouraging to those who believe that the expenses of the city government can be materially reduced without impairment of efficiency whenever intelligent men make an honest effort to bring about such a result. Frequently the cutting off of how they are allowed or encouraged to appear in needless expenditures is made unpopular by the manner in which it is undertaken, but Mr. THOMPSON has avoided this danger. There has been no criticism of his administration, no charge the road and asked where they were going. They that he has failed to perform the duties ald they were bound for West Union, to tell the of his place, and no appeal for sympa-

heartlessly deprived of their means of livelihood.

Among the items that go to swell the total of Mr. Thompson's savings are nearly half a million dollars. The income of the city from water revenues has increased by \$1,900,000, partly uttributable to the growth of the community, but in a measure due to immonth will show a corresponding im-

provement in the balance sheet. Nothing is more simple to promise han economy in public affairs, and few things are more difficult to bring about. Mr. THOMPSON seems to have been able to make savings without stirring up

### Stepping Across the Atlantic.

The amateur engineers, who build railroads on the maps without regard to the difficulties of nature or climate or the vulgar consideration of making them pay, have turned from the simple plan of joining Asia and America by a ferry across Bering Strait, connect ing with thousand mile long roads through the Alaskan wilds and the Siberian tundra, to the less frigid but equally profitable project of bridging the Atlantic between Africa and Brazil. From Cape Verde to Cape Saint Roque the distance is about one-third that from England to New York; the Mauretania or the Lusitania could make the trip from Pernambuco to Fathurst on the Gambia or Dakkar in Senegambia in two days. Why not establish a line that would cut down the ocean passage would be an easy matter on paper.

To the intending British tourist or a journey on the French and Spanish railroads, transshipment from Gibraltan to Ceuta, and another very long trip on a road yet to be built that must pass through the land of the genial Morocattraction, and would be conveyed to Pernambuco, which is also not looked upon as a health resort. Thence he would have to travel by Brazilian railroads, yet to be constructed but of formidable length, to Rio Janeiro and undeniable, and it promises plenty of are completed, however, the traveller will certainly get to his objective point sooner, by taking a tramp steamer.

For the shipper of freight the advansake of speed to Spanish and Moroccan try improving its internal waterways The construction of this line is a for the sake of economy, these dream-

Fancy one "skimming" Borraius, beguiling a

Apparently our esteemed contemporary has been favored with a new and enlarged

edition of the Pigskin Library

Staten Island is accessible by the ancient ferry plying across the narrow strait at \$1,200,000. France leads in perfumery West Eighth street, Bayonne, as well as by the municipal boats that plough the upper bay, so that a prolonged strike by the city's servants would not have cut the island off altogether from Manhattan. Brief as the strike yesterday was it had its uses: it drew attention again to the poor service furnished by the city, and it emphasized Staten Island's need of a fast electric service to Port Richmond and by unnel to Bayonne.

SAMUEL HENRY BUTCHER, Dublin born, year, was an admirable Greek scholar who had the art of writing admirably in permanent value, whatever be thought f the theory and practice it illustrated of translation and of the English to be used in a translation of Greek epic; and ory, sacrifices neither scholarship nor readableness. To represent the University of Cambridge in the House of Commons is regarded as a purple honor in since 1906. There is no editor of DEin compensation it has nobody knows how many Demosthenes.

It seems fit and appropriate at this juncture that Mr. Marting's friends and acquainteness, his fellow townsmen, the men among whom he has lived these many years, should assemble and show to the world that he is well and favorably known in this community, that he is honored and respected by our representative citizens, and that if elected we think he will be an ornament to the United States Senate and a worthy representative of the State of New Jersey. From a call for a public meeting in the interests of the Hon, James E. Marting.

If Mr. MARTINE is so well and favorably known, and so honored and respected by his neighbors, why in the name of ommon sense have they so steadily and repeatedly rejected him as a candidate for minor offices?

### The Manhattan Philosopher on Music, TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-SEC. THE SUN'S music critic said on December 18, with certain quaitfications, that 'a man who plays an oboe is n orchestra is called a musician and has a right the title " Well, if he has a sense of chords an

simply a mechanic, as are most of the so-called mbile is and always has been beyond my ker New York, December 28.

A Natmeg Thinker. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN -Sir: Age thought

reproduced hereditarily without capability of ex-pression? If not, why not stop thinking?

ANXIOUS READER. HARTPORD, Conn., December 30.

THEIR SOURCES.

WASRINGTON, Dec. 20 .- Comment has the large increase in sales to the Philippurchases for next year to the value of pine islands, due presumably to the oper-\$30,000, transfers to other departments ation of the tariff of 1999. Additional de- 17.657 miles in 1990 and 20,487 in 1995. of \$4,300, and unexpended balances of tails are now at hand based on the reports of the customs service of the islands. From them it appears that the increase in American sales, approximately \$6,000,000, other countries. The imports from all creased the system to sixty-six miles proved methods of collection. This amounted to \$23,100,627 in 1909 and to has been accomplished in one year, and \$26,292,329 in 1910. A table shows the pur-

> years thus: 1907. \$6,157,910,\$6,100,585,\$5,408,819,\$5,567,15 Germany 851,385 1,983,808 1,731,071 851,385 821,133 947,964 1,978,353 Sec. 123 1,736,667 1,654,480 14340,101 1.386,722 Switzerfid 605, 198 151.524 580, 166 543, 167 30%,543 463,970 356,661 505,943 1.000.914 1.111.863 1.441.063 2.241.747 Japan 1 626 001 1 225 005 745 057 3,474,236 5,746,432 4,275,398

ustralasia 1,612,133 2,016,136 2,498,949 2,305,177 A number of other countries appear on the list with sales ranging from \$400,000 downward to inconsiderable sums. records are similar to those quoted above The need of rice accounts for about 90 per cent. of the heavy purchases from the French East Indies. Attention may called to the steady and considerable increase in Japan's sales. This is accounted for by large gains in the sale of coal and manufactured cotton goods In combination those two articles consti tute about 60 per cent. of the account In 1908 Japan's sales of cotton goods amounted to a little over \$500,000, while in 1910, in spite of the larger opportunity given to American cottons, they amounted to over \$900,000. The total cotton trade of the islands shows a value of \$8 522 307. of which \$5,884,117 was cotton cloth. The distribution of the cloth trade was as folmaterially? The railroad connections lows: United Kingdom, \$2,544,210; United States, \$1,911,338, an increase from \$452,401 in 1909: Japan, \$585,952, an increase from business man in a hurry it would mean \$257,000 in 1908; and smaller accounts with a dozen other markets, Germany, fo ome reason, getting a very small share.

The agricultural condition is indicated

v purchases of only \$50,000 worth of imlements, about one-half from the United States and the remainder fairly divided cans and the sands of the Sahara. He between the United Kingdom and Gerwould find himself in a port more noted many. Breadstuffs were imported to for pestilential fevers than any other value of \$1,918,951, rice to a value of \$5,321. 962, and vegetables to a value of \$664,727 The United Kingdom supplied \$62,401 worth of bread and biscuit, and the United States \$5,482 worth, out of a total of \$78,846 China supplied \$66.555 worth of maca roni and vermicelli out of a total of \$68,793. The United States supplied \$1,098.823 worth his probable goal. That there are so per cent gain for the United States chances of adventure on such a trip is and a 25 per cent, loss for their competitor. An excellent coffee was at one time ports of 1910 show a value of \$279.000. Germany, with \$87,000, is the leader in a \$240,000 market for glass and glassware, with Japan, the United States, United order, following. This country is a long leader in the supply of \$171,000 worth of electrical apparatus, and also in steel bars hardware, tools, nails, and various other iron and steel products. Germany supplies half the demand for cutlery and nearly half of the sewing machines. United States and the United Kingdom are rivals for the first place in steam engines, with this country somewhat shead. The United Kingdom supplied \$228,500 worth of iron pipes and fittings, and the United States \$112,500 worth in this country. American sales of leather and leather goods amounting to \$576,000 in a total importation of \$760,000

Imports of meats and dairy produ the newest Homily, or lightening a dull week end show a total value of \$2.377.466, with the Fenning Foot.

Australia leading in fresh hard and female to the fear of the fear Australia leading in fresh beef and fresh pork, China in lard, hams and bacon, United mineral oils come from this country, the gave any outward concern whatever, imports showing a total value of about and cosmetics; the United Kingdom and the United States are rivals for the soap trade, and half the musical instruments come from this country. Eighty per cent of the imported beer is American-55 per cent of the wine is Spanish, and nearly 30 per cent. French. Out of \$248 700 worth of distilled liquors \$107,000 worth was American and \$77,000 worth British.

The record of the Philippine customs service shows for 1910 in comparison with 1909 an increase of \$9,275,233 in imports. or fractionally 33 per cent. Two-thirds who died on Thursday in his sixty-first of that increase is in the account with the United States. Exports also show an increase of \$9,000,000 in comparison with English. His translation of the Odyssey the exports of 1909, all except some \$500,000 in association with Andrew Lang is of of the gain appearing in the shipments to caught her in his teeth by the skin of her pos this country.

> Why a Tax on Horse Owners Is Proposed. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SEN SET s the expense of street cleaning is to a very large brought about by the borses of the cit suggest that the borse owners should

be compelled to bear a larger proportion of that

expense than falls to their lot as taxpayers. As a means of accomplishing this I would suggest a head tax on horses in the city. It is entirely unfair that I as a house owner, should pay the removal of the droppings of horses from he city when I do not own a single horse. partment stores in my neighborhood own them by the hundred. It may be said, of course, that ses are kept for the delivery of my purchases and that it would be quite fair to make me pay do pay for that service in the price of every rticle that I buy, but if with a head tax on horse the cost of delivery of goods were increased, that increment should be paid for by those to whom the goods are delivered. It is manifestly unfai that I should pay the same price for a pair of gloves that I put into my pocket that is paid by ones, my neighbor, who has the gloves sent home.
In these days of increasing burdens it is well to istribute the burdens fairly. Further, inasmuch as the motor cars are very destructive to the roadways of the parks and the macadamized roadways in general, I would suggest that their wners should pay a Heense for the privilege of

sing them upon all such roadways. New York, December 30. The Burning of the Park Theatre

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Str. Can you tell me when the Park Theatre was burned? think it was in the carly OLD TIMER. BORN IN 1827. ALBANT, December 29.

The Park Theatre burned on December 6. 1545.

> The "Spud" State. From the Denger Republican

The premier spuds of Colorado long ago estab-lished their claim as the finest flavored in the world. An Unsatisfactory Michigan Witness.

From the Menominee Herald Leader. He was unable to state whether he had killed Mm self or had been shot by some one Where Every Ear Is Stretched. Knicker—They say listening is a lost art. Bocker—Ever live in a flat with a dumbwaiter?

court that they had been guilty of receiving thy for aged and helpless employees PHILIPPINE IMPORTS AND CANADA'S RAILWAY PROGRESS. THE NEW YORK FIRE HAZARD. CHIPS OF OLD WORLD POLITICS.

Washington, Dec. 30.-Canada's official report for the year ended June 30, already been made in these columns on 1919, shows a railway system in that country of 24,731 miles, exclusive of sidings and double tracks, an increase from The first Canadian railway was built

1836, a sixteen mile line from La Prairie to the Richelieu River, to facilitate freight and passenger traffic between Montreal has not materially affected the sales of and New York. Other short lines inmarkets other than the United States, 1850, when the United States had only 9,000 miles. The opening of the Grand Trunk Railway in 1856 raised the Canadian mileage it is not unlikely that another twelve- chases from those markets during recent to 1.414, and the construction of the Intercolonial and other lines brought it to 4.804 miles in 1875. In the next twenty years extension was rapid, a little more than 11,000 miles

Of the present total of nearly 25,000 miles about 19,000 miles are held by four one of the prospective perils that cause us companies, the Canadian Pacific, the Grand Trunk, the Canadian Northern and the Intercolonial, the last being a Government line.

The capital liability of the entire system is reported as \$1,410,297,000, a capitali- of arresting zation a mile a little greater than that of may be said of the number the roads of this country. Of the capital \$722.740,000 is in bonds and \$687,557,000 in stocks. As with the lines of the United States, much of the stock represents no actual payment of cash, but it is probable that a physical valuation of the roads today would show, as it almost certainly would with the roads of this country, that taken in its total no "water" remains in the Canadian system. There as here the capital could not have been obtained for the construction of the roads without the premium offered by the stock to the sub-Dominion Government toward railways congested district and its extens has been distinctly paternal, and even more liberal than that of the United States toward the American lines. The Canadian report shows the payment of State subsidies amounting to \$166,885,000, to which are to be added loans of \$31,000,000 and \$3,200,000 of subscription for stock by 55,292,000 acres of land have been granted to the railways by the Government The Dominion railways carried last

year 35.894.000 passengers at an average fare of 1 86 cents a mile, the total receipts from that source being \$46,018,000. Freight of a total of 74.482,000 tons was carried gate of their risks in this territory. at a rate of .739 of a cent a ton mile, affording a revenue of \$116,229,000. These mileage rates are practically the same as the rates on this side of the border. Th gross earnings for the year were \$173. 956,000, and the operating expenses were \$120,405,000, leaving approximately \$53. 550,000 for interest on bonds, dividends and improvements. Allowing an average of 5 per cent, on the bonds, some \$17. 000,000 remained for dividends and im-

Important systems are now under con struction or planned for construction, and in the next few years the mileage will be considerably enlarged and the rapid growth of population and production will change materially the traffic figures. With about one-thirteenth as many inhabitants as the United States, Canada has about one-tenth of our railway mile-Kingdom. China and Belgium, in that age, but its operating revenues naturally do not hold a corresponding relation to those of the railways of this country. Its mileage is about four-fifths that of

## SEAL HERD LOSSES.

Mr. Henry W. Elliott Reasserts That Few Pups and Cows are Killed by the Bulls.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: In THE SUN of December 27 there is a letter from Mr. George A. Clark, who attempts to sidestep my charge that he had never given any warrant in his published official re-ports of 1896-98 for his statements made in he Popular Science Monthly as to the death of cows and pups from fighting bulls. I do not say that even I per cent of the pups a negligible number) are so trampled that is "questionable" is what I say

cow's back, as I have described it in detail ton page 105, Special Bulletin No. 176, States Fish Commission. Denmark in butter, the Netherlands in | does not kill that cow; it does not kill your cheese, and the United Kingdom in con- dog when his hide is torn by the teeth of densed milk. About 90 per cent. of the rival. Why, those cows so treated never describe that indifference too just as I have described the concern of the jealous bulls and their doings:

> When the females first come ashore there is no sign of affection manifested whatever between the sexes. The males are surly and morose, and the females entirely indifferent to such reception They are, however, subjected to very harsh treat ment sometimes in the progress of battles i the males for their possession, and a few of then are badly bitten and lacerated every season. One of the cows that arrived at Nah Speel, St Paul Island, early in June, 1872, was treated to a cruel mutilation in this manner under my eyes then she had finally landed on the harode refully making a sketch of her graceful outlines. ival buil adfacent resched out from his static and seized her with his mouth at the nape of the neck, just as a cat lifts a kitten. At the same instant, almost simultaneously, the old male tha was rightfully entitled to her charms turned and erfor dorsal region. There she was, lifted and erior dorsal regular, between the jaws of her suspended in midair, between the jaws of her surious rivals, until in obedience to their power furious rivals, until in obedience to their power-ful struggles the hide of her back gave way and as a ragged flap of the raw skin more than six inches broad and a foot in leagth was torn up and from her spine she passed with a rush into the possession of the bull which had covetously selzed her. She uttered no cry during this har barous treatment, nor did she when settled again turn to her torn and bleeding wound to notice it any way whatsoever that I could observe. evere in flammation takes place the the water, disappearing promptly scrutiny.

The idea of a naturalist at this hour of Darwinian agreement saying that this very fighting, which the Creator so wisely ordered for the best reproduction of that wild life is all wrong and he can improve upon it! Ages and ages before man ever looke upon those immense fur seal herds of the Pribilov Islands they existed there, million of them then where there are the to-day, fighting as George A. Clark never aw them fight too! The worst that our fur seal has to-day is protection from the hands of Clark and fordan, and that raw officialism which takes its cue from those "authorities

HENRY W. ELLIOTT. LAKEWOOD, Ohio, December 28.

> The Wall of True Art. From the Tatlor and Cutter.

All who have seen the newly erected statue to Henry Irving, by Mr. Brock, R. A., have spoken of it in the highest praise. The pose plendid, and the facial expression is lifelike, ar law for the artist and sculptor and anothe the tailor?

#### The Official Jimswinger. From the Columbia State

To be a real "limswinger" the square cut skirts of the frock coat must come to the knees, or lower and swish and swing, flopping about the legs of nan as he strides along with sness. And the vest should be fletently low to expose at least two shirt study

Ravages of the Dovil in Kansas.

From the Potter Kanzan.

The poor print on pages two and three this week is the fault of the devil. He got his roller

Danger of a Confagration in This Took Sakt to He Be

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir unavoidable, perhaps, that a body like the Merritt investigating committee, which has to make an examination of a number of intelligent witnesses regarding their knowledge of the firefinsurance business, should admit to the stand a number of witnesses, whether familiar with New York eity or not, having pet theories to ventilate, grievances to air or a hobby to ride. In the course of the testimony given these out of town witnesses 12 expressed the opinion that New York city is in imminent danger of an extensive conflagration iting in support of his statement the seri ous catastrophes of San Francisco and Bal imore. I do not share this view, nor is it

supportable by the facts. San Francisco burned as the result of an earthquake, a species of excitement that has never been offered to New Yorkers and great degree to the almost total absence of fire shutters on exposed buildings, while it is a well known fact that no large city in the world compares with New York city in its thorough equipment of this efficient means the spread of fire. The same equipped with automatic sprinklers; and as to "fireproof" buildings, it is safe to assert that we have as many of these as any three other American cities.
In the last twenty-five years there has

been a movement of the wholesale trade in many lines away from the old buildings downtown to the new buildings on and adjacent to Fifth avenue, from Tenth street to Thirty-fourth street, nearly every one of them being of "fireproof" construction and many of them fully equipped with automatic sprinklers. The large values are rapidly isappearing from the section of the city Houston street. The introduction scribers to the bonds. The attitude of the of the high pressure service throughout the additional area, and the increase in the number of our fireboats to a total number of ten, distributed along the waterfront, have, in the opinion of men who have devoted considerable time to a study of the situation, created a distinguished service that is capa ble of handling any possible emergency No city in the world has such a system of fireprovinces and municipalities. In addition | boats, nor is there any other city with such an abundant supply of salt water surrounding it on all sides and instantly available for use in the high pressure mains in case of need. Several of our strongest and best managed fire insurance companies after a thorough study of all of these conditions

in the last year increased the aggre-

Another witness before the committee

made the statement that the chief of our Fire Department is twenty years behind chief, this witness could not qualify as a fire expert, his valuable experience in the mercantile line might entitle his opinion to respectful consideration. It is hardly necessary to say, however, that intelligent public opinion will not support his view while the chief is not perfect (none of us is) he is an untiring worker, alert, indefatigable and careful for the safety of his men. I am told that at the meetings of the Board of Building Examiners, of which he is a member, his views and influence are usually found to be on the progressive side of any problem. His subordinates in the main, as to alacrity, valor and efficiency, are the envy of the authorities of every city in the United States, and to the American abroad make the foreign fire departments look like a lot of tin soldiers. It is true that the department is not free from politics; and what department is? And it has to be admitted that it is behind smaller cities in one or two minor respects, such as loyalty to the horse drawn vehicle, displaced some time since in a number of progressive cities by the gasolene propelled machine; but we get results. We do not have conflagrations, and no runaway fires stand to New York's discredit.

Now, we do need a deal in the way of improved building laws. The greet advants see we do need a deal in the way of im-

New York selescredit.

Now, we do need a deal in the way of improved building laws. The great advantage of European cities in the way of low insurance rates and freedom from large fire loss is due to the superior construction of their buildings, and not to the efficiency of their fire departments. We should have put the ban on joist construction years ago or at least we should have enacted into law the advanced building code carefully prepared by a patient and painstaking commission and unfortunately nullified by the action of our worthy Board of Aidermen. Additional fire escapes, larger exits, increased elevator service and the compulsory introduction of automatic sprinklers in the tall mercantile and manufacturing buildings, many of which are now veritable sweats shops, and a great many other measures shops, and a great many other measures. thing bulls. I do shops, and a great many other measures necessary to insure the safety of human ives, were intelligently treated in the proposed building law as drafted and defeated. It is easy to sit in the bleachers and criticise the man at the bat. Let us put the responsibility for the safety of the man at the bat. Let us put the responsibility for the man at the bat. sence of a Bureau of Fire Prevention, not upon the fire chief, who is faithfully and satisfactorily devoting his energies to the prosecution of his onerous duties, but upon the City Fathers, who for reasons best known to themselves have applied the brakes to the wheels of progress.

New York, December 30.

#### TOO MUCH PLAY FOR CONGRESS. A Business Man Proposes That the Christmas Recess Be Cut Down.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: I have often wondered why Congress continues t The House and meet early in December. Senate assemble, and adjourn the same day. They have desultory meetings, at which numerous bills are introduced; members make political speeches with which they pad the Record, and spend many days in idleness or discussion as profitless, and then adjourn over for the holidays.

There is not a business institution in the world that could exist thirty days with no nore method or system than is shown in our great lawmaking bodies. Two weeks are aken at this season of the year in which Representatives or Senators go h ome, visit New York, or loaf around Washington Who else is there so fortunate? The ernment clerks get one day; even the secre erhiment decrease taries and Senators work all the Christmas vacation, with only a single holiday. Why should such laxity

work all the United Why should such hand a single holiday. Why should such hand a single holiday. Why should such hand he allowed the legislators?

The last session of this Congress began on December 31, sixteen days later, but when two Sundays and four week days on which there was no session are deducted, and I do not count the days where a session lasted not count the days where a session lasted only a few minutes, there were in all only to leave the session as the country of the session lasted the country of the session lasted the country of the session lasted the session lasted the country of the session lasted the precious days was taken up with political speechmaking. In the Senate most of the time was spent in discussing the omnibus claims bill; but even this business could not be finished, and will be taken up again after the recess.

How "Old Nash" Beat the Tories.

From the Greensboro (N. C.) News.
Once Nash county was famous the State over and over into other States, for the best app brandy in the world—"Old Nash" it was called— and Thealer in his history of North Carolina tells a story how "Old Nash" saved numbers of bray patriots from defeat at the hands of a Tory The men were about to be overcome, the Tory bunch with a jug of "Old Nash, the defeat was turned into victory.

# Cynical Florida Buck

From the Orlando Reporter.

Mr. B. Beacham, who recently returned from the forest, among other trophies of the hunt brought forest, among other tropnies of the number brought back a pair of buck horns, and upon the extreme point of each prong was the perfect formation of a dog's head. Mr. Beacham's only reasonable conclusion is that it is the result of a former exciting chase. After baving it exquisitely mounted nay present it to the Smithsonian Institution at Washington.

#### Pushing Wood. From the Portland Press

In the town of Bethel carloads of checkers were manufactured for the Christmas holidays. The manufactured for the Christmas holidays. barrels Each barrel holds 35,000 checkers and the 500 barrels contain 28,000,000 single checkers.

The New President of Switzerland. Marc Ruchet, elected President of the switst Confederation on December 15, is said to be the first Swiss President to own a private carriage The office pays \$3,500 a year, and is held for a year M. Ruchet will serve throughout 1911 It is his second term. He is a Radical. Dr. Louis Forre-of Zurich was elected Vice President. Dr. Victor

siers of Bern President of the Federal Trib-nal, and Dr. Georges Favey of Vaud Vice Pres dent, all for one year. M. Ruchet has a notable record as a legislato house in Bern is crowded with artistic object and ancient furniture. He is a widower, his wifhaving died some months ago.

an animal painter of some reputation. M. Ruchet was born in 1853 in Bex. Canton of he went to Lausanne and became a lawyer. he held office in the Department of Public Work In 1900 he entered the Federal Council, and in the he served as President of the Republic. He is the author of a law providing federal subvention Baltimore burned owing in having charge at the same time of the Depart ment of Fine Arts, and is credited with g

> M. Ruchet is a fervent Alpinist. Galtered to the knee and alpenstock in hand he may often be seen elimbing the picturesque slopes surrounding his The new Vice-President, M. Forrer, is 66. He

was President in 1906.

Department of the Interior

### A Federal System for Portugal.

The new regime in Portugal has advanced far as to take up discussion of the perulanent organization of the republic. Opinion generally favors a federal system based on that of Switzer land. The country is to be divided, the projectors say, on ancient ethnic and geographic lines such as were recognized down to the usurpa tion of Dom Miguel in 1828. This would make th constituent states or provinces Minho, Doure Tras-os Montes, Beira-Alta-d'Estremadura, Alem telo and Algarye.

It is not proposed to attempt such an organiza-tion until the Cortes are regularly assembled. Then the adoption of a constitution is contemplated which would give the States conside ble power, both legislative and adm

All political activity is concentrated for the mment on the coming elections for the Constituent Assembly. They are to be held in the middle of March and it is hoped that the Legislature can meet about April 1. The republican central com-mittee has announced a broad resolution to give its support only to "historical" republican candi This term is used to describe those who were avowedly republicans in the days of the monarchy.

Of course the coup d'état which dethroned King Manuel brought to the front an army of republican shouters who had never been heard om before, but who were willing to swear they these and much suspicion of their good faith in the ranks of those who were outspoken in days of ans should refuse to help them in gleaning and of the profits of the revolution.

Whether this is good politics or not is open to question. By antagonizing their new adherent the republicans may drive a formidable number of them into the ranks of opposition and reaction

### Flourishing Italian Finances.

On the anniversary of the Messina Reggio great outlay the national treasury had made works of relief and restoration, \$35,600.00 could do it, they said.

in fact, italy is in contrast with every country in Europe, except perhaps Russia, in being able to beast of an annual surplus. On December 3 Signor Tedesco, the Finance Minister, made formal statement in the chamber on the opera-tions of the treasury for 1909-10, in which he sale the fiscal year closed with an excess of 49,000.0 lire, or something more than \$13,000,000 over the poses, including the amount for earthquake reurgent

\$3.500,000 to the good. For the current year, 1910 11, the Minister said, an excess of receipts over expenditures of 94, 000,000 lire, or more than 332,000,000, was estimated, but 30,000,000 lire of this was already placed in reserve for special uses. For 1911-12 a surplus of at least 10,500,000 lire is counted upon.

The upkeep of the Italian army now costs 11. 000,000 lire more than formerly, but there is plenty of money available to replace some of the anti-quated warships with up to date fighting vessels quated warships with up sum of 16,000,000 lire has been appropriated to ndemnify sufferers by the cholera epidemic t e spent next year on the celebration solidation of the kingdom with its capital in Rome Speaking on this tople, by way of peroration his address. Signor Tedesco got off this

rhetoric "Our foreign guests will be welcomed able on returning home to bear witness that Italy comprehending her historic mission and faithfu to her promises, continues to be a guaranter of the peace of the world, to cooperate joyously and valiantly in political, intellectual and economic progress, and to stand as an efficacious element of social justice, a lofty expression of accord be-

tween the sovereign, the people and the national emier Luzzatti, Signor Giolitti and deputies of all the parties joined in compilmenting Minister Tedesco on his speech.

# Austria's Ministerial Crisis.

The resignation of Prime Minister von Bienerth of Austria and his colleagues, which caused great surprise about the middle of December, was due to the secession of the Polish Club, which formed an important part of the Ministerial majority in the Reichsrath. The Poles seceded because their de-mands for the construction of a system of canals to open up their country did not receive sufficient

The chamber cast up the expense of the project

and found it would be beyond the financial ability

of the empire at the present time. The Poles cut down their demands to the construction of a single canal into the heart of Galicia. But even this would cost 400,000,000 crowns, or \$80,000,000 Even this was too much, so the whole scheme was killed and the Poles flocked all by themselves. Bienerth handed in his resignation, but urged merce. The chamber in general applauded him cordially. His programme app cure indispensable legislation a cure indispensable legislation and then adjourn the Reichsrath. It is expected that the Emperor will commission him to form a new Ministry during the recess, and he can negotiate for the reconstruction of a majority before another session is held.

# Holland and Germany.

The German project for levying tolls on the navigation of rivers passing through the empire has caused asperity in Holland as well as in Austria. the recess.

The interruption comes just at a time when work should be beginning, and it is a serious interference with legislation. Why can't congress be honest and do one of two things meet at the time now set, get busy with its work, and celebrate Christmas in the way business men do throughout the country; of enact a law changing the time of meeting until after the Christmas holidays, and then get to work in good earnest?

OBSERVER.

WASHINGTON, December 30.

It is over the Rhine that the Dutch are worried, and the present attitude of the Government and the States General is of uncompromising resistance to any burden being placed upon the free use of the stream. In his general statement as to the foreign relations of the country, made early in the month before the lower house at The Hague. Foreign Minister Marces van Swinderen declared that the Government had not given way an inch and would not do so.

The Minister also denied again the charge that Halland was vielding to German pressure in

Holland was yielding to German pressure in fortifying her sea coast. He also upheld her right to fortify Flushing "for the purpose of maintaining the neutrality of the Scheidt." He denied that England had made any remonstrance against

In the course of his speech Minister van Swi deren revealed that Holland is not yet on very good terms with Venezuela, but he said there was no need for worry. Castre had created a situation from which his successors found hard to extricate themselves, but Hollan-

Dangers of Clipping a Cherub. From the Nashville Tennessean.

Cannon was the forerunner of the cataclyan.

After his wings had been clipped by Congress insurgency ran riot. Men who had quietly borne

### their crosses for years spoke out and started the whirlwind.

The sculptor had just finished the Apollo Beile-"I am satisfied." he cried. "Every man who passes thinks it looks like himself."

The Sculptor Philosophy

Feminine Chronology.

Stella-How old is Mabel Bella-Old enough to be younger.